

# Movies & Languages Film Festival 2024-2025

## *West Side Story*

**About the movie** (in English with English subtitles)

<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Steven Spielberg
<b>YEAR/COUNTRY</b>	2021/ USA
<b>GENRE</b>	Musical/tragedy
<b>ACTORS</b>	Rachel Zegler, Ansel Elgort, Ariana De Bose, David Alvarez, Mike Faist, Rita Moreno, Iris Menas, Josh Rivera



### PLOT

The story follows the plot of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet but is set in the slums of New York in the 1950's. Tony, a poor white Polish boy, and Maria, a poor newly arrived Puerto Rican girl, fall in love with the intensity that only young people can feel. Unfortunately, Tony is an ex-member of the Jets, a gang of poor white ghetto kids (white trash); and his best friend, Riff, is the leader of the gang. Maria is the sister of Bernardo, the leader of the rival Puerto Rican gang, the Sharks. All the characters live in a neighborhood that is about to be destroyed because of property speculation but they are so trapped in their difficult lives that they are not able to see what is happening around them. The story, which was originally a Broadway musical, has lost nothing of its freshness, in that poor ethnic groups, in this case white and Hispanic, are still cornered now in their poverty and their pasts. When it opened in 1957, New York was the art capital and modern dance capital of the world; the music and songs serve to greatly heighten the tragedy.

### LANGUAGE

Originally a Broadway musical, the language adapts the slum talk of the 50's to make it understandable for a sophisticated educated theatre-going public.

### VOCABULARY

<b>Beat it:</b> move out of my way fast	<b>Warden:</b> the officer at a prison
<b>I don't speak spick:</b> I don't speak Spanish	<b>Sewer:</b> where all of the waste water goes
Spoil your chance: ruin your possibility	<b>Rough:</b> difficult
<b>To be evicted:</b> to be officially order to leave a building	<b>Brittle bones:</b> fragile bones
<b>Back down:</b> to decide not to be aggressive	<b>Juvenile delinquent:</b> a young criminal, under 18
<b>To outnumber:</b> to be in the majority against an opponent	<b>Womb to tomb:</b> from birth to death
<b>To put him out of circulation:</b> to force him out of a situation	<b>Irish sweepstakes:</b> a big lottery
<b>To drive you off your turf:</b> to force you out of the area	<b>A miracle due coming to me:</b> something really good is going to happen to me
<b>To get your story straight:</b> to say what happened objectively and truthfully	<b>The air is humming:</b> good things are in the air



<b>To climb their way out of it:</b> to get out of the slum/a bad situation	<b>A shroud:</b> the cloth that covers a dead body
<b>The last of the can't-make-it Caucasians:</b> the last remaining white people	<b>Gimbel's:</b> a big department store
<b>The wrecking ball:</b> the big metal ball that knocks down buildings	<b>Gringo:</b> in Latin America, an American
<b>You're headed to an upstate prison cell:</b> you are going to go to a state prison	<b>Guinea pig:</b> an animal or person used for experiments
<b>Schrank</b> is a German surname, but it is also the same sound as shrink, <b>shrank</b>	<b>Fall in:</b> line up like in the army
<b>God give a pigeon:</b> God doesn't care	<b>By-the-book-type:</b> a very traditional guy
<b>Green banana:</b> a person who has just arrived in the USA	<b>To pow-wow:</b> to have a peaceful meeting
<b>Not a State, something else:</b> Puerto Rico is a territory and doesn't have all the rights of a State	<b>Make like the rat and skedaddle:</b> to run away very quickly like a rat
<b>High-noon-shoot-out at the OK Corral:</b> " <i>High-noon at the OK Corral</i> " is a famous cowboy film with lots of shooting	<b>Switchblade:</b> a knife that comes out at the push of a button
<b>Wild blue yonder:</b> words from a famous airforce song meaning high in the sky	<b>Tenements:</b> apartment building for poor people
<b>Rumble:</b> in 50's slang, a big fight	<b>Spooking around:</b> moving mysteriously around
<b>Lousy chicken:</b> a big coward	<b>Polack:</b> a bad word for a Polish immigrant
<b>Like a bat out of hell:</b> going very very fast	<b>Hemming neckties:</b> making ties
<b>To screw up your life:</b> to ruin your life	<b>To wait tables and shine shoes:</b> to do restaurant work and clean shoes
<b>To go upstate:</b> to go to prison	<b>Chock full of Nuts:</b> an inexpensive fast food/coffee chain
<b>Junkies:</b> drug addict	<b>Punks:</b> young street kids
<b>Untapped good:</b> good qualities that have not come out	<b>Deprived:</b> not receiving the things that you need
<b>Headshrinker:</b> psychoanalyst	<b>Grandpa always plastered:</b> grandpa was always drunk
<b>To push tea:</b> to sell marijuana	<b>Brawling:</b> fighting
<b>I don't sell heaters to unscrubbed boys:</b> I don't sell guns to dirty boys	<b>Mutual Assured Destruction:</b> word used after the invention of the atomic bomb to mean the total destruction of the world in the event of an atomic war
<b>Attica:</b> a big prison	<b>To take a rain check:</b> a saying meaning that if you can't do something now you will do it later

